

SCOTT HARSHBARGER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Attorney General
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November 10, 1997

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

Thank you for your letter advising me of the Cambridge City Council's recent order regarding landlord notifications following drug arrests. As I read the order, the Councilors have requested information from my office regarding a landlord's responsibility following notification of a narcotics arrest on property they own.

As you may be aware, this is an area in which my Office has been very active. Specifically, my Office's Narcotics and Special Investigations Division spearheads an initiative dubbed "Operation Take Back," a program designed to assist property owners and local officials in eradicating drug problems in properties which are the site of repeated drug violations. The Division's Asset Forfeiture Unit pursues forfeiture and/or nuisance actions against owners who are unwilling to take corrective measures.

As a component of Operation Take Back, my Office's Asset Forfeiture Unit conducts landlord training seminars designed to educate landlords about their rights and responsibilities with respect to tenants who are utilizing the property as a drug distribution site. I enclose for your information a copy of the manual used in conjunction with these trainings.

I look forward to working with City officials. To this end, I have asked Assistant Attorneys General Robert Sikellis, the Chief of my office's Narcotics and Special Investigations Division, and William Brownsberger, the Chief of my office's Asset Forfeiture Unit, to contact appropriate authorities in the City and arrange for a meeting to further outline Operation Take

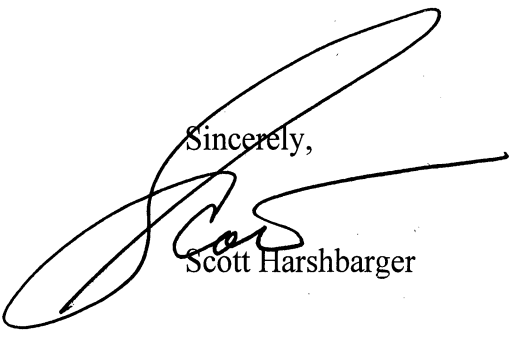
D. Margaret Drury
November 10, 1997

Page 2

Back as well as other initiatives which may be beneficial to the community. They will report their progress directly to me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Scott Harshbarger

cc: District Attorney Thomas Reilly
Police Commissioner Ronald Watson
Mayor Shelia Russell
Councillor Timothy Toomey
Councillor Henrietta Davis
Councillor Francis Duehay
Councillor Anthony Galluccio
Councillor Kenneth Reeves
Councillor Michael Sullivan
Councillor Katherine Triantafillou

Enclosure

Consent Communication #1

S-726

Communicaiton was received from Attorney General Scott Harshbarger transmitting information in response to the resolution sent by the City Council regarding landlord notifictions following drug arrests.

In City Council November 24, 1997

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